

## Housecleaning.

HOUSECLEANING in the Sunday-school department? Certainly, for a new year of work is opening, and this is a very important subject. One may think of a literal broom flourished in the air, urged like a battering-ram into all corners and driving before it every dust-heap. We do mean this in part. The house of God, in every part, should be tidy. Carpet-shaking and whitewashing and floor-sweeping may need to be done, and the paint brush may ask for handling. There has been much stir of public sentiment in Boston about the sanitary condition of the day schools. Sunday-schools may need a vigorous application of the sanitary broom. There may be corners about the building where disease may hide; apply the broom.

Now carry the broom throughout the Sunday-school organization these fall months. Overhauling now, improvement to-day, will affect the history of the entire year. The broom may be needed in the library. Are there old books, torn, mutilated, dirty? They are past service and may stand in the way of the school's progress. A broom may be needed to sweep some new books in as well as to sweep dirty old ones out. Keep the library clean, bright, attractive. Send for the latest book catalogue published by this house. A library well sustained will be felt all the year round as a sustainer. Build it up and it will help build up the school.

Take the broom into the song department. Bright, cheerful singing pays. Don't drop a worthy old tune; welcome a new one. Don't the scholars sing? Perhaps there is dust in the scholars' throats and the broom is needed there. They have grown careless, and you fear that their throats may be choked hopelessly. How about the leader of the singing? You need a magnetic man or woman, skilled in song, that can arouse and maintain a school interest in songs. Think it over. Music pays. Send this way for our song-books.

Take the broom into the department of lesson helps. You need to get rid of poor ones and secure the best at once. Can you improve on those offered by your own Church?

Has any dust got in among the wheels of the teaching machinery of the school, the choking debris of an indifference to a teacher's duties? In any instructor do "peculiarities" abound, and does grace too little abound? Is some one conspicuous, not by presence, but absence? Here are faults that certainly need an application of the "broom." How to apply is a matter of moment. One may need more grace and tact for the gentle expulsion of faults than

courage for the introduction of merits. In the spirit of the Master strive for improvements. Love can correct where anything like discipline fails. If a superintendent, be what you want your teachers to be—prompt, diligent, a consecrated man or woman.

There is another place to be inspected—the home; and you would like to reach the parents who send their children to school and whose co-operation you must have. Dust is on those wheels. How get the broom in a place that is not Sunday-school and yet helps make it? Let the teachers call at the homes. Get the pastor to preach a sermon on the subject. A famous place, the pulpit, to do some grand sweeping.

Now there is one other place to be visited—this heart here, in this breast. Get the broom in there! O, the need of sweeping inside the human heart! There is cleansing to be done! Ah, the foot of the cross is the place where we all must get, and love and faith begin their gentle but thorough work. It is here set down last, let the last stand first, though, and this human heart, just here, in the breast here, be swept clean for the Master's presence and the Master's work.—*Sunday-school Journal*.

## Book Notices.

*A Year's Sermons.* By S. D. McCONNELL, D.D., author of "Sermon Stuff," "Sons of God," etc. 12mo. Cloth binding, pp. 310. Price, \$1.25. Thomas Whittaker, 2 and 3 Bible House, New York. Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax.

Under a most modest title we have in this volume a collection of fifty-two remarkable sermons. Dr. McConnell's originality stands unquestioned. His marked ability in the "art of putting things" is exceedingly attractive, and in nothing that he has written is this ability more apparent than in this volume. These sermons, in their present form, were never delivered. They were prepared weekly, during a year, for the editorial pages of a secular newspaper in Philadelphia. Each sermon is short and to the point, and is couched in a language which is always readable. Whilst they are reverent, they are plain, clear and incisive.

Their titles are such as are calculated to excite the attention, without any attempt at sensationalism. For example: "The Market Value of a Soul," "A Liasion with the World," "Sinning by Proxy," "The Tyranny of Business," "Revelation and Man's Capacity" and a score of others equally striking. The volume is dedicated "to the congregation outside the Church, that people who are the fascination and the despair of the preacher, this volume is with hopefulness and doubtfulness inscribed."

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